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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-WK//
TO ALCOAST

BT

UNCLAS //N06230//

ALCOAST 487/04

COMDTNOTE 6230

SUBJ: INFLUENZA VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM 2004-2005-UPDATE 1

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 291350Z OCT 04 (UNNUMBERED ALCOAST)

B. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 081920Z OCT 04 / ALCOAST 457/04,
INFLUENZA VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR 2004-2005

1. CANCEL REF A.

2. REFERENCE B IS CANCELLED. THIS ALCOAST PROVIDES UPDATED POLICY GUIDANCE ORIGINALLY OUTLINED IN REF B FOR THE 2004-2005 INFLUENZA VACCINE PROGRAM. ON 25 OCTOBER 2004, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) PUBLISHED FINAL POLICY ON ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING INFLUENZA VACCINE THIS YEAR BASED ON RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NATIONWIDE VACCINE SHORTAGES. BECAUSE DOD SUPPLIES THE COAST GUARD WITH THE INFLUENZA VACCINE, OUR POLICY MUST ALIGN WITH THAT OF DOD.

3. COAST GUARD HEALTH CARE FACILITIES WILL PROVIDE THE INFLUENZA VACCINE ONLY FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL CONTINGENT UPON AVAILABLE SUPPLIES:

A. MANDATORY IMMUNIZATION FOR THE FOLLOWING COAST GUARD PERSONNEL:

(1) MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY AND DIRECTLY ASSIGNED TO CUTTERS, SMALL BOAT STATIONS AND OTHER READY BOAT CREWS, MARINE SAFETY AND SECURITY TEAMS, SECURITY RESPONSE TEAMS, PORT SECURITY UNITS, TACLETS, LEDETS, STRIKE TEAMS, AND AIR STATION PERSONNEL ON FLIGHT STATUS.

(2) MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO LORAN STATIONS TOK, PORT CLARENCE, ST. PAUL ISLAND AND ATTU.

(3) ALL MEMBERS WITH ORDERS FOR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM DEPLOYMENT.

(4) RECRUIT TRAINEE AND FULL TIME TRAINER CADRE POPULATION AT TRAINING CENTER CAPE MAY.

B. MILITARY BENEFICIARIES REPORTING TO A COAST GUARD HEALTH CARE FACILITY THAT MEET ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES (ACIP) PUBLISHED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC):

(1) ALL CHILDREN OF AGE 6 TO 23 MONTHS.

(2) ADULTS OF AGE 65 YEARS OR OLDER.

(3) PERSONS OF AGE 2 TO 64 YEARS WITH CERTAIN UNDERLYING CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS AS DETAILED AT:

[HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU/PROTECT/0405SHORTAGE.HTM](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/0405SHORTAGE.HTM).

(4) ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR BECOME PREGNANT DURING THE INFLUENZA SEASON, GENERALLY FROM OCTOBER TO MARCH EACH YEAR.

(5) CHILDREN OF AGE 6 MONTHS TO 18 YEARS ON CHRONIC ASPIRIN THERAPY.

(6) HEALTH CARE WORKERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PATIENT CARE.

(7) HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OF CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 6 MONTHS OF AGE.

(8) COAST GUARD FAMILY CHILD CARE (FCC) PROVIDERS AND CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS WHO CARE FOR INFANTS YOUNGER THAN 6 MONTHS OF AGE.

4. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR RECEIPT OF INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION BY ACTIVE DUTY FORCES IS PRIMARILY BASED ON MEETING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: HAS A PRIMARY RAPID DEPLOYMENT HOMELAND SECURITY OR DOD MISSION, GETS UNDERWAY FOR GREATER THAN 24 HOURS, BERTHING IN OPEN BAYS OF FIVE OR MORE

PERSONS, HAS A PRIMARY SAR MISSION. NOTE THAT ELIGIBILITY IS NOT DETERMINED BY THE RISK OF COMING INTO CONTACT WITH INFLUENZA-INFECTED PERSONS.

5. ALL ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL LISTED IN THIS ALCOAST ARE OF EQUAL PRIORITY TO RECEIVE INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION. COAST GUARD HEALTH CARE FACILITIES SHALL NOT IMMUNIZE OTHER BENEFICIARIES, INCLUDING ACTIVE DUTY, WHO ARE NOT IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES.

6. ALL EXCESS VACCINE AVAILABLE AFTER IMMUNIZATION OF ELIGIBLE PERSONNEL SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND REPORTED TO THE MLC(K)S FOR INTERNAL CG RE-DISTRIBUTION AS DIRECTED BY THE COGNIZANT MLC (K).

7. PERSONNEL WHO RECEIVED INFLUENZA VACCINATION LAST YEAR ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE AT LEAST PARTIAL IMMUNITY TO SOME INFLUENZA STRAINS CIRCULATING THIS YEAR. THERE CURRENTLY IS NO ANTICIPATION OF A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS INFLUENZA STRAIN. THE SHORTAGE OF VACCINE DOES NOT NECESSARILY INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A WORLD-WIDE EPIDEMIC. PERSONNEL NOT GETTING THE INFLUENZA VACCINE THIS YEAR SHOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXPECT THEY WILL GET INFLUENZA.

8. EFFORTS TO AVOID TRANSMISSION OF INFLUENZA VIRUS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK. IF YOU ARE SICK, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM OTHERS TO PROTECT THEM FROM ALSO GETTING SICK.

B. COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WITH A TISSUE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GERMS TO OTHERS.

C. WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF FROM GERMS AND KEEP YOURSELF FROM TRANSPORTING OR RECEIVING GERMS.

D. AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH TO LIMIT YOUR EXPOSURE. GERMS ARE OFTEN SPREAD WHEN PEOPLE TOUCH SOMETHING THAT IS CONTAMINATED WITH GERMS AND THEN TOUCH THEIR OWN EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH.

E. IF YOU GO TO A HEALTH CARE FACILITY WITH INFLUENZA-LIKE SYMPTOMS, YOU MAY BE ASKED TO WEAR A MASK TO PROTECT OTHERS AT THE FACILITY FROM YOUR GERMS. HOWEVER, WEARING A MASK WHEN YOU ARE HEALTHY WILL NOT NECESSARILY PROTECT YOU FROM GETTING SICK.

9. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INFLUENZA AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES GO TO WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU/.

10. POINTS OF CONTACT: AT MLCA(K), CDR PATRICK MARSHALL AT 757-628-4338, AT MLCP(K), CDR PAUL HUNTZINGER AT 510-637-1237, AND AT HQ, CDR SHARON LUDWIG AT 202-267-1725.

11. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

12. CAPT MICHAEL SELAVKA, DIRECTOR (ACTING), HEALTH AND SAFETY, SENDS.

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